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LETTER DATED 8 APRIL 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GERMANY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya issued on 5 April 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dieter KASTRUP
Permanent Representative of Germany
to the United Nations

Annex

[Original: English and French]

Brussels, 5 April 1999

Statement on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya issued on 5 April 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the transfer by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the Netherlands of the two individuals charged with the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 for the purpose of trial, as demanded by the Security Council in its resolution 1192 (1998) (as well as its cooperation with the competent French authorities, which has allowed a trial in the case of the bombing of UTA flight 772), thus bringing about the suspension of United Nations and European Union Lockerbie-related sanctions against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

The European Union has always called for a full investigation into the responsibility for the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 and a fair trial of the suspects. The European Union is convinced that the arrangements made for the Scottish court sitting in the Netherlands will guarantee such a fair trial.

Full compliance with the stipulations of all relevant Security Council resolutions will enable the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to regain its position as a full member of the international community in the near future. This will allow a re-examination of the question of the participation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in the Barcelona process, which the European Union deems desirable. It is in the interest of stability in the Mediterranean basin that an important country in a strategic position, such as the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, should not be excluded from this dialogue. This presupposes, however, that the Government of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya must adopt and act in accordance with the basic principles laid down in the Barcelona Declaration. The suspension and, in due course, lifting of the sanctions will open up new perspectives for the social and economic development of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

The European Union thanks the Secretary-General for his diplomatic contribution to reaching an understanding with the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on the implementation of the Security Council resolution and also expresses appreciation for the contributions made by the Governments of South Africa, Saudi Arabia and other countries.